MERCHANT OF VENICE

Discussion of the Characters in Shakespeare's Great Comedy,

TREND OF COMIC OPERA STAGE. the Inanities of the Present Form call Emphatically for Amendment. claston, Wainwright, and the White Squadron This Week.

not help regretting that the such a vigor of determinad their backs upon and would thing to do with Creston Clarke's Mr. Hazleton's new Edgar Allan Poe," at the Acade-Monday night. The play was with local color, and with the ng central character in the hands smerica's rising young actors-

who made his first appeary stage in this city-it was extravagant to expect that ce would be secure from "the neling of the wintry wind." was not to be, and the patwas denied to Clarke and crate revival of "The Merby the Hanford organicorded a few nights later ing and volgar farce pre-

interesting fact, that t was ever acted in dar theatre and by a company was Shake-of the "Merchant of sight to be noted, how-be it to settle upon any criain world), that the man, Judge C. P. Daly, by the scrupplaucity ac-dissents from Dunlay's declares that Cibber's acceptance's Richard III. ate namely, on March 5 are's mind that started the ement in America. The ge has undergone great that time, but both "The Venice" and Richard III. I, and in the "Merchant," Richard," the public interest aucumities is vital. In New Edwin Booth's management, ter Garden Theatre, January of carrier invarie, January of autrequently at Booth's in London, under Henry magement, at the Lyceum cember I. 1878, sumptuous prothe Merchants have brill-

marked the dramatic chronicle of times. Discussion of the great for of Shylock steadily proceeds, ema never to weary either the oits or the audience. The sentition of the great for the fancy, the ingenuity of artists, on expended, not only upon the pictureaque, and terrible figure vindictive Jew, kut upon the chief characters in the comedy—upon to and Portia. Grutiano and NeLorenzo and Tessica, the princely usive Antonio, the august Duke a stately estators, and the shrewd umorous Gobbo. More than one

and his religion, but

was a basely crue one of the vilest are at are done in thi persons who are in to derive his sentiments from his delirious outcries after he learned of her isnominious flight. The ta good one, Fine phrases roas deeds right. It were Jessica for the handsome suit that certainly she her rectitude out of the respective of the despeare in his drawing to mature, as he always fent who wants to knoweare's heart was placed women must look upon women must look upon different from Jessica but Shakespeare seems pe-ve leved are Imogen, Cor-linealind, and Portia-laps, most of all; for, al-

llow-men sufficiently determed that Tom. Moore my love, in the morning; woman to-night.

Buzlitt, who thought that coted and pedantic, and like her because he did not reclate her, the best ana-cers about Shakespeare's aken the high view of that that everybody in the play misrepresentation of her been caused, in part, by ting and compressing the to make Shylock the chief In that way Portin is such of her splendor and her

was not written for Shythe is a tremendous ideality the chief subject. The cen Portia and her love. Tha op a large portion of the like a broad, summer land-with many-colored flowers clitter in the sun, while matering thunder-storm gath-lowers, and presently sweeps casting one black shadow as all the brighter or the contrast, with its defeat

an Ibsen in comic opera, I of course, that the playwright him-ight furnish fun as a caricature set try tunes, but it is not for that I long I mean the appearance "in our midet," as bucolle journalism hath it, of a new, strong, compelling personality, a man who would sweep away all the ban-wall the comic opera stage, and give fair?"

som Johnsing: Jess quit braggin' about your son 'Rastus take premium. Didn't your son 'Rastus take premium take premium take premium tak

the public a clean, witty, tuneful opera. But as comic opera is manufactured by a syndicate now-a-days, I suppose I am crying like a spoiled child for the moon. Certainly, the stage manager, costumer, ballet-master, scene painter, machinist, and what-not take precedence of the book and music, and you are told if you demonstrate about set finales, and the idjoite opening choruses, that the public must have it so, and that the prima donna would never consent to be found on the stage at the curtain rise, etc., ad nauseam.

nauseam.

Now, I venture to suggest the idea that the public is heartily sick of comic opera in its present form; it comes late so as to avoid the inevitable, the fatal chorus; it is bored by the topical song, and is sick unto death of the heroine disguised as a boy, being made love to by women, or of the poor but passionate peasant, who is transformed into a prima donus with rousedes raiore. donna with roulades galore.

A great French critic has proved to us that we are familiar with being but com that we are familiar with being but com-binations and transpositions. The comic opera stage of this country knows but one situation, and it is endlessly juggled with, but the same old masks appear, grinning at us as betts old, but not valued, acquaintances, I repeat that a reformer of the Ibsenian type is needed, and needed badly also works of this and needed badly, else works of this class will be entirely discredited. There are no uncertain signs that comic opera is nastening rapidly towards dissolution. or comedy with must will unquestionably supplant it in public

Gilbert & Sullivan created a new varia-tion on the old tune. But why must every work written since "Pinafore" have a patter song with idiotic alliterations. idiotic rhymes, and the same Sullivan-esque musi:? Are ye all imitators—ye composers of light opera? Isn't there a man in the whole army—and an army it is by this time-who can withstand the it is by this time-who can withstand the temptation of having the opening chorus sing gayly, gayly, and a finale to the first act, with the hero (tenor) arrested, the heroine (soprano) screaming on a top note, while the calcium lights and a chorus point the way to the land of lunacy! Two plotting low comedians and a villain (bass) held the left of the stage, a villain (bass) hold the left of the stage, and the curtain falls on cacophony, and then every one rushes for a smoke, and to compare finales and abuse the composer for cribbing. But it must come, there must be a reform, clse, gentlemen, choose another metier. The public is sick of it all. The French long ago saw the dangers and quicksands, and are writing comedies with music, and not comic opera, which is but an atayletic return to the worn-out formulas of the old-fashioned Italian operatic stage. In return to the worm-out formulas of the old-fashfoned Halian operatic stage. In fact, so thoroughly has light opera assimilated the situations of Italian opera of half a century ago that we smile when we listen to "Lucia," "Il Trovatore," and works of that ilk, because we have seen their them burlesqued so often. A male chorus in grand opera is ridiculously funny to us tooday.

After Couns.

What the Press Agents Say of the Attractions They Represent.

The Academy offers as its attracti next Tuesday and Wednesday Kate Claxton, who will present her big revival of the famous "Two Orphans." It is a well known fact that this play-than which no other has ever achieved more success or popularity-was the one in which Miss Claxton's artistic rendition of Louise forever one of the best liked of any of the lady stars on the American stage. In other subsequent productions Miss Claxton has been successful and has found plenty of fayor, but there is always a repeated demand by the public for her return to her original part, in which she has become famous, and in that role fugitive insidel, as they might has become famous, and in that role ed on that delicious summer lightness, when they saw "now of Heaven is thick iniald with for the display of Miss Claxton's sine t gold," and when the finite with happiness and sublime illimitable, uncle of the star-strewn ured in such heaven the authentic must be signed.

"The White Squadron" will be presented on an elaborate scale at the Academy next Thursday. The play is built on patriotle line, and a deeply-interesting to upon the Merchant accepted her without a h do youth and beauty rount in the scale when duty and integrity. There ion that Shylock was inkind to Jessica. Whathave been to others, he o have been good to her; etheld of that lost Leah

Miss Wainwright will appear at the Miss Wainwright will appear at the Academy next Friday, in her latest impersonation of Constance, in Sheridan Knowless famous comedy, "The Love-Chase." This will be costumed in the style of Charles II. This admirable old comedy is presented in a lavish manner, and is well acted by the company supby Nathaniel Hartwig, Barton Hill d Hattle Russell, A Gayotte, dance and Hattle Russell. A Gavotte, danced by all the principals, picturesquely ends

"The Priends We Never See."

The Friends We Never Sec."
The London Spectator has an article with the above suggestive title. It says that in the frivolous bustle of life we seldom see the friends we value most. We meet any number of acquaintances, but rarely come across haif a dozen people we really care for. The friends whose influence helps us most, and whose sympathy and support are most necessary to us, are separated from us either by distance or social circumstances, or the necessities of labor. The natural desire for the congenial friend is very little satnecessities of labor. The natural di for the congenial friend is very little isfied, even amongst those who are living their lives to the full and doing their own work to the best of their ability. own work to the early the constant sense of craying amidst all the activities of the day, or, if it is not so much as that, it is at least a "miss" and a "want." The Speciator raises by its suggestion the whole circle raises by its suggestion the whole circle of experiences, perhaps the most painful we have, which never come to a satisfactory ending. We made a friendship or start an undertaking, and everything seems fair at first. Yet somehow both are abandoned. There is no positive break or quarrel, no actual failure, but the thing itself, and the hopes it stirred, have sone, and they have left in their place suchars a more disturbing or even torgone, and they have left in their para-perhaps a more disturbing or even tor-turing impression than if there had been a decided breach or collapse. Often, per-haps, something might be done by a lit-lier of the collapse. If we haps, something might be done by a lit-tile self-sacrifice and patience. If we have friends who are true to us we should not lose them; not let them vanish out of our lives without at least a strong attempt to keep them. The time spent in the company of acquaintances, and in the too frequent meaningless and vapid gatherings of society would be much bet-ter expended in an honest endeavor to strengthen the link that binds us to one we care for. A neglect of correspondence. we care for. A neglect of correspondence, for example, has often divided two who are necessary to one another's best happi-More frequently, some trivial n ness. More frequently, some trivial mis-understanding or piece of gossip has caused friends utterly to misconstrue and loss one another. A frank explanation would have brought them nearer than ever. And so if we put our hands to an undertaking, it is much the best thing for our permanent peace to stand by it and give it our strength until its inevitable and give it our strength until its inevitable issue is clear. Every one must encounter in the course of life the loss of friendships and failures to achieve, but they will not hurt half so much if they are known to have been inevitable, if a man can say that things are what they are in spite of the best that he could do.

Rivalry Between Families. (Texas Siftings.)

Jim Webster: Has ye heered dat my son 'Rastus tuck a premium at de school 'zamination?"

GRAND BODIES MEET.

ANNUAL SESSIONS THIS WEEK OF TWO MASONIC BROTHERHOODS.

Grand Royal Arch Chapter to Convene Tuesday and the Grand Commandery Thursday Night-Changes in Officers.

This will be a busy week in Masonic circles. Two of the grand bodies will meet at the Temple and besides the election of officers for the ensuing twelve months, considerable business of a legislative nature will be transacted.

Tuesday night at 6 o'clock the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia will assemble in the chapter-room, and will remain in session two nights. The present officers of the Grand Chapter are: Most-Excellent George W. Poe, of Richmend, Grand High Priest; Jacob Bumgardner, of Staunton, Grand Scribe; Joseph V. Bidgood, of Richmond, Grand Treasurer, and W. B. Isaacs, Jr., of Richmond, Grand Secretary. These officers will all come up for re-election, and one or two may have opposition. The office of Grand King is vacant, owing to the Right-Excellent Companion death of Frank A. Reed.

The first order of business after the The first order of business after the Grand Lodge is opened in ample form on Tuesday night will be the address of the Grand High Priest, after which standing committees will be appointed the Grand Lecturer. and the reports of the Grand Lecturer and Grand Treasurer will be made. The second night session, which will also begin at 6 o'clock, will be devoted

principally to the election of officers.

OFFICERS MAY BE CHANGED. It is thought that Grand-High-Priest Poe will be succeeded by Right-Excel-lent Jacob Rumgardner, the present Grand Scribe. This will make two va-cancies to be filled. That of Grand King will probably be filled by the promothe offices, and much interest is already being manifested in the forthcoming elections, particularly for that of Grand Secretary. Mr. W. B. Isaacs, Jr., who was appointed to succeed his father, the late immented William Bryan Isaacs, will not be a candidate for election. Se-veral gentlemen are mentioned in con-nection with this important position, and their friends are already at work in their their friends are already at work in their

After the election of officers the Grand. Council, composed of the first three of-ficers, will make appointments for the remaining nine offices in the Grand Chap-

On Wednesday morning, a convention of the order of High Priesthood, will be held. All past high priests are ell-gible to this order.

GRAND COMMANDERY. On Thursday night the Grand Com-mandery Knights Templar of Virginia will assemble in the asylum at the

will assemble in the asylum at the Temple.

The Grand Commander, Right-Eminent J. P. Corbin, of Fredericksburg, will first make his address, after which all routine business will be discoved of. The election of officers will then be proceeded with. The officers at present are J. P. Corbin, Grand Commander; John T. Parham, of Petereburg, Deputy Grand Commander; E. H. Miller, of Danville, Grand Gineralissimo; James H. Capers, of Richmond, Grand Captain-General; George W. Dame, D. D., of Danville, Grand Preme, J. Howard Wayt, of Staunton, Grand Senior Warden; P. J. Woodfin, of Hampton, Grand Junior Warden; J. V. Bidgood, of Richmond, Grand Treasurer, and W. B. Isaacs, Jr., of Richmond, Grand Recorder.

As a general rule the office of Grand Commander is considered to be a one-term office, though it has been held longer by incumbent. Should Mr. Corbin be re-elected, there will be but little change in the present official staff.

The Hymns of the Gael. The winter session at Edinburgh University began on the 15th ultimo. Generally the professors entered at once upon the work of the session, but in not a few cases they followed the old custom

of delivering an introductory address some subject connected with the work the class. In the Celtic class Profess

clacking on chose as his opening lecture "The Hymns of the Gael." From the very first, he said, as might have been expected, hymns have formed a considerable portion of the Gaelic literature. Many of our early missionaries were poets, and a great number were skilled to making verses. The old Gael wrote Many of our early missionaries were poets, and a great number were skilled in making verses. The oid Gael wrote in Latin as well as in Gaelic, and many of the hymns now surviving, written by him, are in the Latin tongue. For instance, in Milan, there was a volume of Latin bymns written by a Gael, with some hymns of Hilary and Ambrose, all in Latin, and some of them are not merely rhymed, but show very great power over rhyme in the foreign tongue. It was also a practice to alternate their Latin and their Gaelic in the same verses, and of this practice Professor Mackinon gave examples. The hymns were divided as regards their subject matter into two great classes—the hymn proper, the song of praise; and the sacred lyric composed primarily with a view to convey instructions and information. In point of time the hymns might be conveniently described as pre-Reformation and postdescribed as pre-Reformation and post-Reformation hymns. Among the authors in the old period quoted were St. Patrick, Columba. Moclisu, while one or two hymns by anonymous authors were taken as specimens of the hymn proper. The Gael, it was pointed out, occupied nowa-days a much lower platform than in the old period. To make the comparison a tens of the hymn proper. days a much lower platform than in the old period. To make the comparison a proper one would require to include men of Celtic descent who have written in English, and here the Gael would give a good account of himself in literature, music, and art. A volume about to be published by Mr. Carmichael of hymns gathered among the Catholle population of Uist and Barra were spoken of, and the Professor also mentioned and extracted from a volume of Manx Carols, published four years ago. Of the extensive catalogue of sacred song in the Scottish Highlands, the hymns written by Dougall Buchanan, Dr. Macgregor, Nova Scottis Dr. Macdonald, Ferintosh: Rev. Peter Grant, of Strathspey, D. Macdougal, of Barra; and John Morrison, of Harris, were singled out as of conspicuous merit. Among them those of Peter Grant were spoken of as the most popular and the more commonly sung, while the names of Dougal Buchanan and John Morrison stood far above all other religious writers, and were in the very front rank of Gaelic poets, secular and sacred, old and modern. secular and sacred, old and

Use of Captive Balloons.

Use of Captive Balloons.

(Macmillan's Magazine.)

Captive balloons become essentially the more valuable in proportion to the numbers of men forming the army to which they belong. It is, of course possible that a captive balloon might afford very useful information to the commander of a small force of 5000 or 10,000 men, but the value of such information would be altogether out of proportion to that which a balloon might give to a commander of 100,000 men.

To give a rough example—had the French army been provided with captive to a commander of 100,000 men. To give a rough example—had the French army been provided with captive to a commander of 100,000 men. To give a rough example—had the French army been provided with captive to allow the substance of the Twelfth Saxon Corps would have been detected at an early hour, with the obvious result that Bazaine would have had time to move his powerful reserve of the French Guard Corps, some 20,200 strong, from the left of his position, where they were not wanted, to the right, a distance of seven miles, and thus materially alter the situation at that critical part of the great battle-field. Many such examples will present themselves to any student of military history, but the occasions upon thich balloons would probably have been of inestimable value are those where large armies were actually concentrated on the field of battle, such as Waterloo or Koniggratz.

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novel patterns has correspondingly increased, and to supply this we are constantly adding to our already large and varied stock new designs, which are attracting much attention and are meeting with universal favor, and these, together with our large stock of standard patterns, which we have always on hand, make our stock the most complete in the city. If you wish to purchase any article in this line, be sure and see our Silverware Department.

C. Lumsden & Son,

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MEETINGS.

MASONIC NOTICE. — THE Members of FRATERNAL LONGS No. 53. A.F. and A.M., are requested to attend a stated communication of their lodge at Masonic Temple, MONDAY EVENING, November 11th, at 7 o'clock. Members of sister longes are cordially invited to attend.

By order of the W. M. WILLIAM LOVENSTEIN, no 10-11* no 10-1t*

GRAND ROVAL ARCH CHAPTER OF VIRGINIA.)
GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE.
MASONIC TEMPLE.

THE ANNUAL CONVOCATION of the GRAND BOYAL ARCH
MASORIC Temple, City of Rich-mond, on the Eth
NOVEMBER at 8 o'clock P. M.
WM. B. ISAACS, JR.,
To d-td Grand Secretary. GRAND COMMANDERY K. T. OF VIRGINIA.)
OFFICE OF GRAND RECORDER,
MASONIC TEMPLE.

THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
of the GRAND COMMANDERY
CF VIRGINIA will be held at the Masonic Temple, in the city of Richmond,
on THURSDAY, November 14th, 1856, at 10
clock A. M. WILLIAM B. ISAAUS, JR.,
no 6-td Grand Recorder, ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the STOCK-HOLDERS OF THE RICHMOND, FREDERICKSEURG AND POTOMAC RAILEDAD COMPANY will be held on WEDNESDAY, November 39, 1825, at 12 o'clock M., at the office of the company in Richmond.

no 5-td J. B. WINSTON, Secretary. A NNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the POTOMAC RAILROAD COMPANY will be held at the office of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company, in Richmond, on WEDNESDAY, November 20, 1895, at 11 o'clock A. M. no 5-td J. B. WINSTON, Secretary. BOOK AND JOB PRINTING NEAT-PRINTING-HOUSE AT THE DISPACE

DETERSBURG RAILROAD COM-The annual meeting of the STOCK-HOLDERS OF THE PETERSBURG RAILROAD COMPANY will be held at the office of the company, in Richmond, Va., on MONDAY, November 18, 1896, at II o'clock A. M., no 5-td W. R. JONES, Secretary.

RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG
RAILBOAD COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the STOCK-HOLDERS OF THE RICHMOND
AND PETERSBURG RAILROAD COMPANY will be held at the office of the
company, in Richmond, Va., on MONDAY, November 18, 1865, at 12 o'clock M.
no 5-td W. R. JONES, Secretary.

Richmond, Va. Navember 2, 1895.

J. HAVE THIS DAY APPOINTED MR.

J. K. TENNANT my agent, to conduct
the grocery, liquor, and provision business
at 400 north Seventh street, to buy and
sell for cash only.

no 3-Su4t

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